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Big Fix on for cats

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Steele School marks 100 years

Page 7

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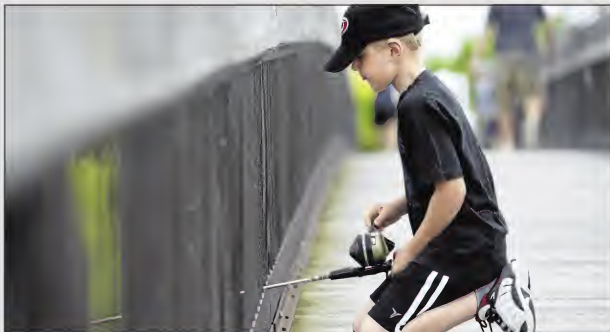
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Angling for a bite



FRANKI IREMAN/
POSTMEDIA
NETWORK
Anthony Priorillo fishes off the footbridge at the Port Colborne & District Conservation Club's Kids Fishing Derby at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park on Sunday. More photos on page 3.

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UPFRONT

■ **ANIMALS:** Port Colborne group aiming to have all cats in east-end neighbourhood spayed or neutered

Cat population gets Big Fix

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Heather Hartsell loves her cats.

"They are an extension of her family and she always wants to do what's right for them."

But the single mother struggles financially to give Scrappy and Cat the veterinary care they need.

Getting the pair neutered has been on her to-do list, but a tight budget means it has been sidetracked time and time again — until now.

Hartsell is one of many cat owners living in Port Colborne's East Village who plans to participate in the Big Fix.

The project, facilitated by Port Colborne Feline Initiative, intends to see every cat in the east-end neighbourhood, whether a pet or a stray, spayed or neutered at no cost.

Kristi Mallinson Vogel knows it's a big undertaking.

But the PCFI founder is confident the task can be accomplished — as long as the community pounces on the opportunity.

"We've always wanted to do a more targeted spay/neuter project and the time is right now to give it a try," Mallinson Vogel said.

The not-for-profit organization, committed to addressing the lakeside city's cat overpopulation problem, has grown substantially since its inception in 2009 and is now comfortable taking on a project of this size, she said.

The East Village neighbourhood — with boundaries to Durham St. to the north, Davis St. to the east, Lake Erie to the south and Welland St. to the west — was chosen as the project's target after extensive research.

Welland and District Humane Society has a high intake volume of cats from the neighbourhood, which also contains certain economic indicators that suggest many of its residents may not be able to afford the cost of spay and neuter procedures.

"It's a lot of money to keep

them healthy," Hartsell, 27, said of her pets, adding costs continue to rise.

"This program is going to be a huge help."

The initiative is PCFI's way of offering a helping hand to pet owners and those who oversee community cats, Mallinson Vogel said.

"The fact is that not everyone can afford the spay/neuter costs."

To help raise awareness of the Big Fix, a public information session is scheduled for June 25 at 7 p.m. at the Francophone Seniors Centre, 184 Mitchell St. in Port Colborne. Refreshments will be provided, as well as free cat treats for all in attendance to take home.

People will be able to sign up cats that evening for veterinary appointments for the procedures to get the ball rolling.

"We want to seize the moment and get people excited," Mallinson Vogel said.

Following the information session, volunteers — including a PCFI rep and a neighbourhood resident — will begin going door-to-door to spread the word and book time slots. Future information sessions will also be held.

"It's a chance for us to educate people on the issue as well," Mallinson Vogel said. Many people, she added, don't understand the impact cat overpopulation has on the community, including the cost associated with caring for and treating the thousands of cats brought into local shelters each year.

A cat can begin reproducing at four months old and can have up to three litters a year, having four to eight kittens per litter.

"They say multiply like bunnies, but I think it should be multiply like cats," Mallinson Vogel said, while stressing how quickly the population can grow.

She believes community buy-in is key to alleviating the issue with programs like the Big Fix. The initiative is



East Village resident Heather Hartsell is enrolling cat Scrappy in Port Colborne Feline Initiative's The Big Fix program.

the first of its kind in Niagara and "cutting-edge" in Canada, she said.

Residents who sign up to have their cats spayed or neutered will receive a bag of cat food, donated by the Welland and District Humane Society, and a VIC (Very Important Cat) package filled with goodies.

"We want to reach out and show people that they and their cats are important to us," Mallinson Vogel said.

"We want residents to work with us. We really believe in collaboration. We're looking for their input and for them to team with us."

People caring for feral colo-

nies who sign up will be provided food, as well as assistance to ensure there are proper shelters and feeding stations in place. Volunteers will also offer tips and tricks to managing the colonies.

Complaints are often heard about garbage, noise and other issues with community cats, Mallinson Vogel said, but these issues can be addressed through proper colony management.

"No one wants to see lots of cats roaming around, not in good health and getting into garbage," she said. Spaying and neutering immediately stops reproduction, will reduce noise and minimize

infighting that takes place, she added.

"You can keep things neat and tidy to the point where people won't even know it's there."

East Village resident Marilyn Lehecki has been looking after community cats in the neighbourhood for some time. This past winter, when the weather was particularly frigid, she opened the doors of her home to two feral cats that have since settled in alongside her three existing rescues.

Lehecki, a member of the East Village Action Committee, has made use of PCFI's TNVR (trap, neuter, vaccinate,

return) program in the past in an effort to help stop reproduction among local ferals.

While the neighbourhood does still have a substantial amount of community cats, Lehecki said she's noticed a "big difference" since PCFI introduced its spay/neuter programs in 2009.

"It has made a difference, but more help is still needed," she said.

"I understand the issue is everywhere, but I feel it's massive here."

Mallinson Vogel believes locating the neighbourhood's stray cats shouldn't prove too difficult, as most are already being fed by residents.

"We'll instruct the feeders on what to do and prepare them for trapping," she said.

The neighbourhood will be divided into four quadrants, with one tackled at a time.

The total cost of the Big Fix, projected to treat 350 cats, is estimated at about \$40,000.

PCFI is actively applying for grants to assist with the program, which will be funded mainly through fundraising dollars and donations.

Ideally, the entire neighbourhood will be completed within a year, Mallinson Vogel said, confident the ambitious goal is within reach.

Aside from living in the targeted neighbourhood and having a cat in need of treatment, there are no other requirements to participate.

Anyone interested in making a donation to the project can do so by visiting www.candahelp.org/en/charities/port-colborne-feline-initiative.

For more information or to volunteer, call 905-964-4778, e-mail pcfeline@live.ca or visit pcfeline.org.

Volunteers will be needed to help transport cats to and from vet appointments, to canvass the neighbourhood, help people fill out applications and to help with trapping.

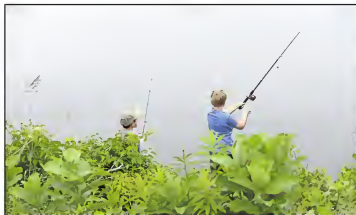
maryanne.firth@postmedia.ca
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Here fishy, fishy!

The Port Colborne and District Conservation Club held its annual Kids Fishing Derby Sunday at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne. The derby ran from 8 until 10:30 a.m. and was free for all children 13 and younger. The kids fished from shore and all fish were measured, then released.

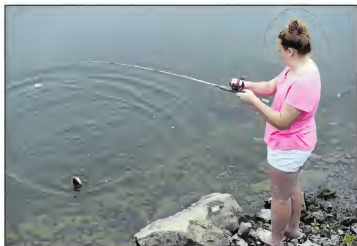


Brennan Schiltz fishes off a dock ... but finds the waiting hard to endure.



PHOTOS BY FRANKIE BEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Kids fish at the Port Colborne & District Conservation Club's Kids Fishing Derby.



Olivia Lawrence snags a catfish.



Kadence (left) and Brennan Schiltz fish off a dock at the Port Colborne & District Conservation Club's Kids Fishing Derby.

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING ...

Vacation on my mind

THOMAS ARTH
For Postmedia Network

For some time, now I just can't get my upcoming vacation out of my mind.
My daughter is partly to blame. Well maybe completely to blame. She got a job working at Walt Disney World for 12 weeks this summer. So she's there, posting pictures on Facebook of the things she's doing and seeing which makes me jealous. But we are planning a family vacation there later this summer. We'll go down for the last couple of weeks that she works there and then bring her back with us.
I've been to Disney World once before in the summer. I've been there lots of times but fifteen years ago we went in August and I swore I'd never get there again in the summer time because it's just too hot for me. Well, I was wrong. So Mickey here we come.
I've been going to Disney World my whole life long. I think my parents took me and

my brother there the first year or two after it opened. A Florida vacation was almost an annual thing for my family when I was a kid. I had a great aunt who lived down there so we had a free place to stay and that was our home base for day trips criss-crossing the state and inevitably one day in the Magic Kingdom.
Then it had been a number of years through my teen years when I hadn't been there but then my wife and I went on our honeymoon and spent a week there. Then, once our kids were old enough we went frequently again. I am hooked on the place and I can't wait to go there again, counting the weeks and days.
I've learned something about Walt Disney World and what makes it so special to so many people. They have created a culture there that every "cast member" (that's what all the employees are called) learns from the

beginning of their orientation and training. They are expected to create happiness for their guests and to do that they are taught four "keys" to help do that.
The four keys are: Safety, Courtesy, Magic, Efficiency. In all the years that we've been going, we've often remarked about how they seem to have thought of every little detail. They go above and beyond to exceed the expectations of guests of all ages.
It doesn't have to be a daunting task for any of us. How would things be in the rest of our lives, not just "The Most Magical Place on Earth"? What if we lived our lives and performed our jobs, whatever they may be, with similar "keys", being courteous and respectful, being attentive and ready, using our time and resources wisely, looking out for the safety of others? What if we were willing to create experiences that will change people's lives?

I'm a pastor and this makes me think about what the church can do, not to wag a finger in scolding, not to lay a guilt trip on anyone, not to police people's morality, but instead to proclaim the love and grace of God, to hold up the worth we all have in God's eyes, and maybe to create happiness.
I may be dreaming if I think people will ever be as excited about coming to church as they are to go on a fantasy vacation. But I think we can make church, and life in general, more enjoyable if we're intentional about caring for others. Safety, Courtesy, Magic, Efficiency. Those are the keys that help create happiness for guests at Disney World. Maybe we can take those and add things like love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, acceptance, kindness, compassion, and peace to make our world a better place and help to create happiness for our neighbours. I can't wait.

Shipwrecks – Carl Meentzen



HANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Tecun Uman is shown in this undated Dave Freeman photo from the Harry Stott Collection.

SKIP LILHAM
For Postmedia Network

While a small ship of only 89.07 metres in overall length by 13.05 metres at the beam, the West German freighter *Carl Meentzen* put in 15 years of trading before becoming the victim of a bizarre series of accidents.
The vessel had been built at Bremerhaven, Germany, and completed in April 1956. It could carry 3,450 tonnes of cargo in its two cargo holds and made a brief appearance on the Great Lakes in 1962.
The ship was sold and renamed *Perla* for Venezuelan owners in 1969 and resold in 1970 becoming *Niki* under the flag of Greece.
A collision and explosion in the English Channel on Jan. 11, 1971, sank the tanker *Texaco Caribbean* with the loss of eight lives. The next day the *Brandenburg* struck the sunken tanker and it, too, went down with another 21 lives being lost.
Laue, on Feb. 27, 1971, *Niki*, on a voyage from France to Egypt with steel rails, hit one of these two wrecks and joined the duo on the bottom of the channel. Sadly, all 22 sailors aboard the *Niki* were lost, making a total of 51 sailors who perished.

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■ NIAGARA REGION

Council wants more time to review budget ideas

ROB HOULE
Postmedia Network

Niagara Region councillors deferred giving budget direction to staff Thursday, saying they did not have enough time to review a presentation.

Councillors received an advance copy from financial management and planning director Helen Chamberlain Tuesday afternoon. But some said that didn't give them enough time to review its contents before Thursday's budget review committee of the whole meeting.

"I think this is one of the most important things that we are doing in a year," said Niagara Falls regional Councillor Bob Gale. "And for us to only spend less than 48 hours on it."

Gale, chair of the Niagara Region Police Serv-

ices Board, said he spent all Thursday on board duties and "I have spent zero time on this report."

Port Colborne regional Councillor David Barrick, chair of the budget review committee, said he heard similar comments from other councillors and suggested Gale propose the report be received and any decision on it be deferred to a meeting June 25.

That motion was unanimously passed.

While councillors made no decision on staff direction, the report asks councillors to endorse a budget draft that would result in a 3% (\$9 million) increase in spending. A forecasted 1% growth in assessment (from taxation on new homes, businesses) would offset that increase to the tax base by 2%.

Niagara Region Chair Alan

Castlin said he was hopeful the increase could be eliminated.

"It's still a request of mine to find the taxpayers a way to make it can conclude with a 0% tax levy increase, and what that would look like," he said.

"Are there areas you can suggest that we should be looking or could be looking to make that a reality?"

Chamberlain replied staff continue to look at ways to find savings.

"We will look at all service delivery options and consider opportunities of reshaping the way in which we deliver those services in an effort to provide savings," she said.

Chamberlain said 46% (\$321 million) of the \$691 million gross levy budget comes from property taxes. The balance is derived from

provincial funding for social services and benefits, user fees and provincial offences court fines.

Councillors want school boards to pay taxes on vacant properties

They really can't do much more than complain about it.

And that's just what Niagara Region council opted to do Thursday night — complain about a plan under consideration by the Niagara District Catholic School Board to impose a development charge on all new construction in order to pay for new schools. Should the board go through with it, the Education Development Charge would track on approximately \$180 to the cost of building a house. That dollar figure is based on land values in the two municipalities in which enrollment

projections over the next 15 years show new schools will be required — Grimsby and Niagara Falls. The EDC would be collected in each municipality, whether the board plans to build a school there or not.

The EDC would be collected by the local municipalities and then remitted to the school board, which would then use the cash to purchase land and build schools. A memorandum from corporate services commissioner Mo Lewis to council at Thursday's regional council meeting shows the proposed EDC is much lower than those levied by other Catholic school boards in other southwestern Ontario municipalities, where the average is \$745 per residential building. Among public school boards in the same area, the EDC averages \$1,536. The staff report notes the Niagara

District School Board of Niagara has indicated it has no plans to impose an EDC, which is permitted by the Education Act.

While the EDCs fall out of their jurisdiction, regional councillors nevertheless will make some noise about them. Councillors endorsed a report from staff that calls on the Ministry of Education to force school boards to sell vacant or surplus properties, thus making them taxable — schools are exempt from paying property taxes — and to mandate that the proceeds of those sales be only used to fund new builds.

No decision on POA courts

Niagara regional councillors put a staff recommendation to only build one new provincial offences court on hold.

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Cats, kittens keep local animal shelters busy

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

It's not uncommon to see pregnant cats being brought through the doors of local humane societies, especially this time of year.

Cat overpopulation has become an issue throughout Niagara and

it can be seen in the pregnant cats, nursing moms and orphaned kittens frequently turned over to the animal care organizations.

The local shelters, as well as community groups focused on animal issues, are working toward addressing the problem by helping to make spay and neuter surgeries more affordable

and accessible to pet owners.

"Our shelter is always at capacity for cats," said Tammy Gaboury, animal care manager for Welland and District Humane Society.

"And now, we're at the height of our season."

The Welland facility has had a wealth of cats brought in recently,

several of them with a litter of kittens by their side.

In 2014, 885 kittens were cared for at the Welland shelter.

"It's why we have the cat adoption centre, why we do adoption drives," Gaboury said of the sheer volume.

"There's not a municipality that we cover that doesn't have a cat overpopulation problem."

It's also part of the reason why the shelter opened the Welland and District Regional Spay/Neuter Clinic a little more than a year ago. The clinic provides low-cost surgeries not only to pets, but also to feral cats and rescues.

The cat overpopulation issue needs to be addressed at the ground level, Gaboury said, with unfixed cats roaming the streets targeted for spay and neuter surgeries.

She praised the work of local not-for-profit group Port Colborne Feline Initiative, which recently announced a new program, The Big Fix, that aims to see every cat in the lakeside city's East Village neighbourhood spayed or neutered at no cost.

"This is not something that's going to be fixed overnight, but it's a start," Gaboury said, adding that the end goal will be reached faster with groups working together.

PCFI's initiative was also lauded by Lincoln County Humane Society executive director Kevin Strooband.

"We certainly applaud a program like that, because it's needed," he said.

There are just not enough people out there spaying and neutering their cats.

Strooband believes the key to controlling the cat population is making the necessary surgeries more affordable and accessible.

That's why the St. Catharines shelter

opened its own low-cost spay and neuter clinic in December 2012. It has since performed more than 10,000 surgeries.

Since November 2013, the shelter has also subsidized its cat adoption rates, lowering the cost to just \$25 in order to encourage adoption of spayed and neutered cats. The shelter sees about 2,000 cats a year.

"It's an expensive program to run," Strooband said, estimating it costs about \$84,000 annually.

But it's one he feels is also assisting with the overpopulation problem seen in the Garden City.

Robyn Voyce believes the public is beginning to get the message that spaying and neutering is the responsible thing to do.

But the assistant manager of Port Erie SPCA said overpopulation remains a problem in the town.

The shelter currently has in its care four cats nursing a total 18 kittens.

Most, but not all, pregnant or nursing cats that come into the shelter do so as strays, Voyce said.

Two of the four cats currently at the shelter were owner surrenders.

Sometimes an unfixed cat gets out of the house, gets pregnant and then its owner is left feeling "overwhelmed" and unsure of what to do, Voyce said.

"One cat then turns into seven cats," she then ended up at the shelter, she said.

"If people were to spay or neuter their pets, they wouldn't run into these problems if they were to get out. That's why public education is so important."

Voyce urged people to contact their local shelter to learn more about low-cost spay/neuter options available in their area.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **MILESTONES:** School celebrates 100 years

A century and counting at Steele School

FRANKI IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

Their smiles stretched from ear to ear as they climbed the staircase and walked back into the classrooms they once sat in as children.

Steele Street Public School welcomed back its alumni for an open house last Thursday to celebrate the school's 100th anniversary.

People who graduated there as early as the mid-1940s came back to school to reunite with former classmates and teachers, and to see what their beloved elementary school looks like now.

Shirley Rogers Lazareth was a student at Steele Street from 1939 until her Grade 8 graduation in 1945, and a teacher at

the school from 1952-1955. She has fond memories, and her eyes lit up, when she walked into the classroom where she once taught third grade.

She flipped through old photographs with her former students as they tried to distinguish who was who in the nearly 60-year-old photos.

It was nice for her to return to the school where she has so much history, Lazareth said, even though it has changed a lot since she was teaching there.

"The school is not the school I attended as a child, it's not the school that I taught at, but it is the school current students are graduating from," she said.

She remembered what it was like to be a student during

the war years when they would have to practice air raid drills, saying it was really frightening to think about as a child.

"The buzzer would go off and you all had to march out silently down the stairs," Lazareth said. "Children don't have to worry about those things, but lots of other things."

On the other hand, she noted, some things never change.

She laughed as she noticed the similarity between Grade 8 girls then and now, telling a story about an encounter with a group who had teased her on the playground.

When John Maloney walked up the stairs, Lazareth pulled out a picture from her Grade 3 class and pointed to the young,

smiling future mayor.

He said it was nice to come back to his old school, where his mother had attended before him, and to see his old teacher Mrs. Lazareth.

"Well it's very nostalgic," Maloney said. "The stairs, when you're a little person, they were huge."

He said he loved the community feel of the school, and the big old building that still has the Boys and Girls signs in the stonework marking the separate entrances from his days as a student.

"It seems very majestic, very stately. A classic-looking building," he said.

franki.ikeman@postmedia.ca
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FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK
Aldona Sesto looks at old photographs. Sesto's four children attended the school as children.

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MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

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It was confirmed recently that Niagara's
southern municipal airport will be renamed

for Pelham's Dorothy Rungeling, a pioneer
in Canadian aviation.

To help cover costs associated with the
renaming, an online GoFundMe campaign
has been created.

Money raised will be used first to repaint
the side of the hangar with the airport's new

name, and to assist with creation of new
signage, said Carolyn Botari,
a local historian who initiated the
push for the renaming in honour of
Canada's Flying Housewife.

When she began working to hon-
our Rungeling's legacy, she com-
mitted to assisting with fundraising
if the project was approved.

Any additional money raised
through the campaign will be used
to cover legal costs associated with
the name change and to help throw
a celebratory event to mark the air-
port's grand reopening.

The goal, Botari said, is to raise
\$12,000.

By creating an online fundrais-
ing campaign, she hopes to not
only spread the word locally, but to
also raise awareness of the initiative
among aviation and history buffs
from around the world.

"It's just such a wonderful thing"

she said of the renaming.

It's the first airport in Canada
named after a woman, and it's right
here in Fenwick.

Botari called Rungeling, who still
lives in Fenwick at age 104, a role
model for young girls — someone
deserving of the spotlight.

"We have someone in the com-
munity who has done some amaz-
ing things. She deserves to be recog-
nized."

It's just one of many firsts Rungel-
ing has added to her impressive air-
craft resume over the years.

She was the first Canadian
woman to hold an airline transport
license. In 1941, while a pilot, she
earned numerous air race trophies
and was awarded the Amelia
Earhart Medal.

The Niagara Central Airport Com-
mission is "thrilled" the renaming
was approved in honour of the

Canadian icon, chair Richard Rybiak
said.

"We have a great deal of respect
and admiration for Dorothy. We're
happy we can bring her spirit to the
airport because she's an amazing
person."

As many public institutions are,
the commission is "challenged fis-
cally" with strict budget. Rybiak said,
adding the money raised through
the campaign will assist greatly with
the initiative.

All funds raised toward the
project "will be put to excellent use,"
he said.

Though it will be left at the com-
mission's discretion, Botari would
like to see the renaming take place
as quickly as possible, with a celebra-
tion held as soon as this summer.

For more information or to make
a donation, visit www.gofundme.com/snedry.

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SATURDAY JUNE 20			
LANDMARK CINEMAS (PEN CENTRE) 12:00PM NAGARA RISES SHORTS 12:30PM CANADA'S NEXT SHORT ON TALENT 3:00PM FOR GRACE 6:00PM VALE CANADIAN PREMIERE 6:00PM SORGO HENNAW, P. KING PERFECT CANADIAN PREMIERE		SENECA QUEEN THEATRE 1:00PM THE AMAZING WIFELA 4:00PM THE OVERNIGHT 7:00PM UNEXPECTED 10:00PM THE QUIET HOUR CANADIAN PREMIERE	
SUNDAY JUNE 21			
LANDMARK CINEMAS (PEN CENTRE) 10:00AM POSTHUMOUS 12:30AM LITTLE BIG MASTER 12:30PM THE LAST AVIATOR 1:00PM THE DART OF A TEENAGE GIRL 3:00PM FANFOL CANADIAN PREMIERE 4:00PM I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS 6:00PM BEST OF ENIGMAS 6:00PM WATCH		SENECA QUEEN THEATRE 10:00AM HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD 1:00PM STATION TO STATION CANADIAN PREMIERE 4:00PM KATHLEEN CARROLL IN CONVERSATION: NETWORK 8:00PM PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS	

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■ POLICE BOARD CHAIR

Gale 'not pleased' with cop discipline

ROB HOULE

Postmedia Network

Bob Gale is not happy about the level of discipline handed to a Niagara Regional Police officer.

When contacted last Wednesday, the regional councillor from Niagara Falls, who is also the Niagara Regional Police services board chair, said he was not speaking on behalf of the board, but "I'm not pleased with what I've read."

Gale was referring to a Postmedia Network article about an NRPS disciplinary tribunal last Tuesday at which Const. Nathan Parker was docked 120 hours pay for an incident that took place while he was off-duty on Nov. 18, 2013. Parker attempted to arrest a motorist he deemed to have been driving dangerously. As he did so, witnesses reported he yelled profanities at the driver, who feared for his safety at the hands of the larger Parker, and remained in his car despite orders to get out.

An agreed statement of facts

said Parker tried to pull the man from the car, but the driver was restrained by a seatbelt. Before returning to his car under the advice of another police officer who was with Parker, he struck in the chest a bystander who he ordered off the roadway.

In February, Parker pleaded guilty under the Police Services Act to discreditable conduct and to two counts of using unnecessary force. On Tuesday, hearing tribunal officer Supt. Scott McLean docked Parker 120 hours' pay, which could come from banked time, vacation time, overtime or be worked at no pay.

Parker refused comment while outside police headquarters when James St. following the hearing.

Tuesday marked the fourth time Parker received a dock in pay for Police Services Act offences. In October 2012, he was docked 60 hours' pay after pleading guilty to discreditable conduct for pursuing his own investigation after his commanding officer was cleared of wrongdoing concerning an allegation that he failed to file

the proper paperwork after having drawn his weapon.

In July 2011, Parker was docked 90 hours pay after being found guilty of using unnecessary force while arresting a cyclist without legal cause.

In November 2007, he was docked one week's pay after being found guilty of misconduct for pepper-spraying a prisoner who was handcuffed and restrained in the backseat of a cruiser.

Gale said Wednesday he has questions related to discipline for police Chief Jeff McGuire.

"Like is there any criteria applied in determining whether to use in-house or external hearing officers? What's the training officer? Questions like that,"

Gale said. "What training is provided to the prosecutors? These are the types of questions I want to ask the chief."

Since it falls under operations, the board has no say how discipline is handled, Gale said, but that does not mean board members cannot ask questions.

"The board has an obligation to review the chief's administration of the complaint system, and this is how we can review it," Gale said. "But the chief runs the complaint system."

Posing questions may serve to enlighten the public, he said. Niagara Region Police Association president Cliff Priest takes exception to Gale commenting on police discipline issues.

"Mr. Gale shouldn't be commenting on ... it's not in his purview to be commenting on police discipline," Priest said. "That's not within the (police services board's) area to make

comments."

Priest said since Gale chairs the police services board, it's not possible for him to recuse himself from that position when speaking on police matters.

"You would never accept

Cliff Priest speaking as himself, I'd speak as the president of the NRPA ... It's like the chief saying, I'm not speaking as the chief, I'm just going to take my uniform off. As soon as you see his name, every one says that's the chief."

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ONTARIO NEWS

■ **TRAGEDY:** Police continue to search Lake Ontario for Keith White

Man who fell off ship identified

JENNY YUEN

Postmedia Network

TORONTO — The man who fell overboard a Mariposa Cruises ship Saturday evening and whom police are still searching for in Lake Ontario has been identified as Keith White of London, Ont.

White's boss at Brose Canada Inc., an automotive supplier plant in London, confirmed the 34-year-old had been employed as a welding technologist since 2007.

"It's really saddening news,"

general manager Steve Wilkins said Monday morning. "We're just waiting to see if the body is recovered at this point."

Wilkins described White as personable, fit and well-liked by his co-workers. He was an avid car-racing fan.

"He was an extremely highly skilled individual," he said. "He was dedicated. He'd take his car to the track and guys from work would also join with their vehicles as well. Very keen on fitness. It's very sombre in the office area where he worked and he

had a very strong connection to the ship floor."

White fell off the 41 m long *Northern Spirit* around 7:30 p.m. during a private party with 427 guests on board.

Toronto police's marine unit, as well as helicopters, circled the area about two 2 km south of the Humber River until midnight Saturday and then resumed the search throughout Sunday.

Sgt. Gerry Klunder of the marine unit wouldn't confirm White's identity. He



Keith White

said three boats continued to search the area Monday, but fog made matters difficult.

Mariposa Cruises told media Sunday protocols were followed and all 19 members of the ship's crew underwent safety training annually.

"At this time the Safety Management System including the shipboard procedures and Muster List for the ship are currently part of the active investigation with Mariposa Cruises' regulatory bodies, including Transport Canada and the Transportation Safety Board," spokeswoman Jennifer Love said in a statement.

■ **PAN AM**

Lane markers to be fixed at contractor's expense

ANTONELLA ARTUSO

Queen's Park Bureau Chief

TORONTO — Pan Am express lanes are proving to be a-peeling.

The diamond markings that indicate the special traffic lanes for the Pan Am Games have already started to come off.

Ministry of Transportation spokesman Bob Nichols said staff noticed disintegration of the taped diamond markings on several Greater Toronto Area highways.

"The contractor was notified of the issue Friday afternoon," Nichols said in an e-mail. "Replacement will be undertaken ASAP this week, weather permitting, at the contractor's expense. Successful installation requires clean and dry pavement. Unfortunately, the recent wet weather has not been conducive to this work."

Patrick Searle, a spokesman for Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca, said the lanes aren't actually in effect until June 20. The special high-occupancy vehicle lanes will crisscross GTA highways during the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games in July and August.

Games officials and athletes will zoom through the designated lanes to get to various events.

Regular motorists will need to have at least three people in their car to use the lanes during the Pan Am Games in July, and at least two people through the Parapan Am Games in August.

Nichols said the short-term use of Pan Am HOV lanes prompted the choice of temporary adhesive tape for the markings.

Murdoch Mysteries



PETE FISHER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

LEFT: Carriages are seen for the filming of *Murdoch Mysteries* in Cobourg Ont., on Monday. The show was filmed at various locations within the town. *Murdoch Mysteries* started filming in 2008 and is about Detective William Murdoch who uses technology to solve crimes in the 1890s.

RIGHT: The cameras are about to role as Yannick Bisson, who plays William Murdoch, gets set to film.



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PORT COLBORNE - WAINFLEET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe that we have shaken the last of the winter cold and moved right through to spring.

There are many reasons to look forward with anticipation to many fun summer upcoming events and activities throughout Port Colborne and Wainfleet. A big welcome goes out to so many of our new members, and I invite you to refer and do business with them, and all of our membership when and where you can.

We have seen huge membership growth since the late part of 2014, along with a sharp increase in attendance for our scheduled events.

The Chamber Learning Forums, a new initiative beginning this year, have proven to be quite popular. These unique events provide learning and networking opportunities focused on creative marketing solutions, website ideas and how to network – just to name a few. Members can discuss their areas of expertise, past experiences or best practices which may be of benefit to others. A strong membership benefits all of us, so spread the word to your fellow business owners so they can begin to enjoy all the Chamber has to offer! March was a month of celebration in which we recognized the dedication and uniqueness of individuals and businesses in our community at the Presidents Awards Gala. We were fortunate to have so many nominees from which to choose – it was difficult but I know you'll agree that each recipient is a worthy and outstanding representative of our chamber to the community. Thank you to the dedication and commitment we receive on a daily basis from our Board of Directors and Chamber administrators. Without your efforts we would not be able to continually evolve, grow, meet and exceed the expectations of our members. Mark it on your calendar! Look forward to the opportunity to say hello at our key event in its 20th year! Lobster and Laughs on June 26th at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park.

With my best wishes for a safe, healthy, happy and prosperous summer season,

Stephanie Babin :- President :- Port Colborne - Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce



Stephanie Babin

Congratulations to this year's President's Award recipients

Women in Business: Tracy MacLeod of Business Express

Youth Citizen of the Year: Austin Stastny

New Business of the Year: Bremfield's

Junior Youth Citizen of the Year: Brooke Bulitz

Citizen of the Year: Gail Todd

Business of the Year: Lake Erie Property Maintenance



BRIDGES TO BETTER BUSINESS

Port Colborne native Noah Fleming was the keynote speaker at the Bridges to Better Business event held at the Americana Conference Centre on May 12. Attendees were engaged in a morning learning session, featuring advice on sales and marketing from an experienced panel of professionals, followed by an insightful speech from Noah.

The audience left with valuable sales and marketing tips as well as a signed copy of Noah's #1 best seller book Evergreen: Cultivate the Enduring Customer Loyalty that Keeps your Business Thriving.



Noah Fleming

Upcoming Events:

Learning Forum: How to Break Through Your Company's Glass Ceiling- June 23

Lobster & Laughs- June 26

BAS hosted by Evolution Window Films- September 9

New Members Breakfast- September 16

Learning Forum: How to Work a Trade Show- September 22

Niagara Networks Trade Show- September 30

Save the Date!

The Fall Business Trade Show will be taking Place on November 5th 2015 at the Italian Hall in Port Colborne.

Keep checking your Chamber Eblasts for more information, or contact Katie at the Chamber to reserve your booth now!

76 MAIN STREET WEST, PORT COLBORNE, ONTARIO L3K 3V2

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PORT COLBORNE - WAINFLEET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Members warmed up in Market Cafe for February's BA5



Members learned valuable information about proper website use at April's Learning Forum hosted by Whisky Run Golf Club



Mayor April Jeffs hosted March's BA5 at Wainfleet Council Chambers



Members enjoyed fabulous hospitality at the May BA5 at Talwood Manor Bed & Breakfast



The Chamber welcomed spring at the April BA5 hosted by Boggio Pharmacy



The Chamber welcomed our newest members at the Port Cars Reach Out Food Centre

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Lake Erie Property Maintenance
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905-835-2659
www.lakeeriepropertymaintenance.ca

Timberwood Custom Kitchens Inc.
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905-899-6674
www.timberwoodkitchens.com

La Boite a Soliel
210 Elizabeth St. Port Colborne, ON.
289-836-8020
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Whisky Run Golf Club, United Way Niagara and Epoch Avenue Web Solutions teamed up to host a spectacular BA5 summer bash



Six Mayors of the Niagara Region gathered for lunch and presentations

SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

This coming fall, a new Port Colborne establishment will bring a breath of fresh air to the Ontario curriculum. Owner Laura O'Connell is excited to open the doors to Evergreen Academy: a safe, comfortable and inclusive school community serving students in the Southern Niagara Region. Offering a fresh perspective on schooling, Evergreen Academy aims to instill in students the principles of sustainable environmentalism through an array of creative and fun learning experiences. Parents can rest assured that children will be receiving top notch education that not only meets but surpasses the current requirements of the Ontario Curriculum. Evergreen Academy will be offering classes from grades 1-6, as well as a "Little Sprouts Program" for children 30 months-5 years old, and Educational Day Programs for children aged 2-5. Before and After School programs are also available. Want a taste of Evergreen before the new school year? Try out one of their many fun and educational summer camp programs being offered in July and August. For complete program information, check out Evergreen Academy online at www.evergreenacademy.ca

Owner: Laura O'Connell 289.273.2283 learn@evergreenacademy.ca www.evergreenacademy.ca



LOBSTER & LAUGHS Celebrates 20 Years!

June 26th marks the 20th annual Lobster & Laughs fundraiser. Grab your friends for a and head down to our new location at HH Knoll Lakeview Park. The event under the tent starts at 6pm! Join us under the for a delicious dinner of lobster & prime rib, and stick around for a hilarious performance from comedians Marc Sinedinos and Denis Gignon. Kick off your weekend of fun with a fabulous meal and great entertainment! Let Lobster & Laughs warm you up for flavours on Saturday and Sunday! Tickets are still available and can be purchased from Katie at the chamber: 905-834-9765 katie@pcwchamber.com

■ EMERGENCY SERVICES

Coroner gets taste of gorge rescue work

ALISON LANGLEY

Postmedia Network

It wasn't a typical day for Dr. William Liang.

As a coroner with Hamilton and

Halimand counties, the family physician responded to a call of a body discovered in the Niagara escarpment.

"I was holding myself on to trees and, in retrospect, I realized

it was dangerous as I could have slipped down the slope," he said, recalling the steep and rocky terrain.

Determined not to become a liability at a future investiga-

tion, Liang traded his lab coat for climbing gear this week to work in the Niagara Gorge.

He was among 15 people who underwent a unique training program hosted by the Niagara Parks Police High Angle River Team.

"It has been great fun," Liang said Wednesday as he learned the correct way to load a stretcher into a helicopter at Niagara Helicopters.

The three-day course teaches participants how to handle themselves on mountainous terrain including rappelling, as well as how to safely get on and off helicopters and rescue boats.

The goal is to educate emergency personnel on what to expect if they're called upon to retrieve a body found in a waterway or down a steep slope.

"We do this every year so that all the investigators and people who respond to these type of calls can work together and do so safely," said Const. Shawn Black, of

Niagara Parks Police.

This year's class included members of the Niagara Parks Police, Niagara Regional Police and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Chris Thomson, a member of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group based in Borden, Ont., said the training promotes inter-operability between emergency services personnel.

The specialized reserve component of the Canadian Armed Forces patrols the remote coastal and inland regions of northern Ontario.

"We inter-operate with the OPP and various police services so it's good that we do programs like this," Thomson said.

The training wraps up Thursday with a simulated recovery, where specific evidence is located, documented and recovered.

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Marineland facing its own mortality with Senate bill

As far as big fights go, it put Mayweather vs. Pacquiao to shame.

Not only did it live up to the hype, not only were big blows landed, it set the stage for an even better sequel.

No, not Jurassic World. This was Marineland vs. The Senate.

One senator, actually. Liberal Wilfred Moore of Nova Scotia, finally tabled his private member's bill last Thursday aiming to ban the breeding, acquisition and live captures of cetaceans across Canada.

That would be whales, dolphins



JOHN LAW

and porpoises. Basically everything that puts the "marine" in Marineland.

Moore was supposed to introduce his bill Monday, but the Senate had a scandal to deal with this week — something about spending expenses. They had their own house to clean up before taking aim at someone else's.

Moore was joined in Ottawa Thursday by Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies CEO Barb Cartwright, and former Marineland trainer Phil Demers — whose decision to speak out against the park three years ago kickstarted this whole chain of events.

Facing a \$1.5-million lawsuit from Marineland, last Thursday's announcement meant the most to Demers. He took the original risk, prompting others to speak out ... and receive lawsuits of their own (Marineland has denied mistreating

its animals and says it has passed all government inspections).

Even the date was symbolic — it was three years to the day he decided to take his former employer to task. "Prior to that, I was apprehensive to speak to the media," he told me last Thursday morning. "On this very morning three years ago, I said, 'You put my name and face across (everything); splatter it, I don't care. I've got to do something for those animals.'"

Cartwright stirred the pot further by calling the capture, confinement and breeding of marine mammals "archaic," and that "there are better

ways for us to learn about and conserve species."

Moore then threw a haymaker, saying many Canadians find whales and dolphins in captivity "unacceptable. It's an ethical issue that engages our collective consciousness."

These are all things activists and protesters have been saying for years, but now they were being said on a national stage. With big stakes involved. This bill, as it stands, would put a permanent dark cloud over the only two facilities affected — Marineland and the Vancouver Aquarium. As their animals die, they would be replaced. It would be a prolonged goodbye until, finally, the pools were empty.

But then Moore said something odd. On the phone after the conference, he told me if people want to see whales in their natural habitat "you can come to Nova Scotia and go whale watching."

Hmmm. Marineland must have picked up the same vibe, because when they finally released a statement at 4 p.m., they blasted the bill as a "bicoastal job creation and tourism bill" at the expense of Ontario. They accused east-coast Moore and west-coast May of eliminating competition and promoting tourism for their own constituencies.

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